

AGN. NO. _____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
JANICE HAHN**

AUGUST 22, 2017

SUPPORT FOR AB 1217: STATE STEM SCHOOL

Over the past 40 years, California has built and sustained thriving industries in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. From developing innovative technologies to advancing medical research to fighting climate change, STEM industries fuel California’s economy. The state’s growth of and focus on STEM are reflected in the prediction that California is expected to have the largest number of STEM jobs in the United States by 2022.

As a hub of industry that includes defense, aerospace, clean energy, engineering and technology, and with the state’s largest K-12 student population, Los Angeles County (County) must create more opportunities for its students to pursue STEM careers. The County is home to 25 percent of all K-12 students in the state, 25 percent of all students who are English language learners, and 28 percent of all students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. It has a student population that is 65 percent

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Latino and eight percent African-American. While many high-quality public school options exist within the County, including STEM magnets, the County lacks a world-class public STEM school that prepares underrepresented students for advanced study in STEM fields.

In order to meet the growing demand for career professionals in STEM fields, Assembly Bill (AB) 1217 (Bocanegra) would establish a California STEM School in the County. The school would offer a rigorous STEM curriculum for grades 6-12, with an emphasis on attracting and serving the talents of underrepresented students.

This California STEM School would give underrepresented students in the County opportunities to develop the knowledge necessary for a rapidly evolving world, and it would do so in a culturally competent manner to support a racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse student body.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS send a letter to the Governor and the County's State legislative delegation in support of Assembly Bill 1217.

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(EW)